

ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022

L. K. JHA FOUNDATION
NURTURING HUMAN POTENTIAL



Planting the seeds of growth



OUR VISION

NURTURE: Potential of individuals and communities

TRANSFORM: Adversity to Accomplishment

RESPECT: Those whom we are privileged to serve

Nurturing Human Potential

The L.K. Jha Foundation was established in 2018 in memory of the Late Shri L.K. Jha, who was a renowned administrator and economist contributing to India's development over fifty years of public service.

The Foundation seeks to carry forward L.K. Jha's vision for an enlightened and empowered world where all people have opportunities and access to educational and social empowerment; irrespective of gender, race, religion and nationality.

The Foundation endeavours to nurture human potential among the disadvantaged in our country by supporting initiatives relating to Education, Health, Nutrition, Energy Supply, Sanitation, Women Empowerment, Family and Child Welfare, etc.

Our aim is to create sustainable independence in rural areas through training and infrastructural development.



The L.K. Jha Foundation continued to support services for rural development, along with educational support to under-served children, through the financial year 2021-2022.

PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2022

❖ RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- **‘KALPANA’ – VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE, VILLAGE CHIKHALI**
- **HIGH SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT, VILLAGE CHIKHALI**
- **‘SRI RAMAKRISHNA’ BOREWELL INSTALLATION, VILLAGE CHIKHALI**

❖ EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO UNDER- SERVED STUDENTS

- **‘VIDYA’ – CENTRE FOR NON-FORMAL EDUCATION CUM LIBRARY FOR RURAL ADIVASI CHILDREN, BAMUNARA, WEST BENGAL**
- **‘RUPENDRA’ PROJECT- EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES TO CHILDREN RESIDING IN RURAL DHARAMASHALAS/CARE HOMES, ALANDI**

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The L.K.Jha Foundation supports sustainable development in the rural areas, which are currently facing a crisis in basic living conditions and livelihood.

Early 2021, the L.K.Jha Foundation was approached by the farming community of village Chikhali in Maharashtra. Situated in Ahmednagar district, Chikhali is about 120 kilometres from Pune City with a population of approximately 4000 residents.

A drought prone region, the adverse climatic condition of the region is rendering the people vulnerable and under-served.

The water scarcity affects a ready and steady supply of water for human consumption as well as agriculture. Despite being essentially an agrarian society the people of Chikhali cannot rely on cultivation as their primary source of livelihood.

In this background, the Sarpanch and Panchayat Samiti of Chikhali sought assistance from the L.K.Jha Foundation for meeting some pressing needs of the people of Chikhali that were listed as follows:

- ❖ Vocational training for ensuring supplementary sources of income**
- ❖ Water supply and**
- ❖ Water storage system**

The L.K.Jha Foundation took up following initiatives to address the expressed needs of the people of Chikhali with the timely and generous support from our CSR Partner- Tata BlueScope Steel Private Limited.

‘KALPANA’ – VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Responding to needs of the women in the village, a vocational training centre for tailoring classes –‘Project Kalpana’ was launched end of March 2021.

The village Panchayat sourced the location and the trainer for the classes.

All the necessary equipment and material was provided by the L K Jha Foundation that included one advanced foot operated machine for the trainer and 5 foot operated machines for the trainees; scissors, needles, thread, measuring tapes and material.

The Foundation will also be supporting the honorarium of the trainer for a year after commencement of the project.

- ❖ Duration of course - 3 months**
- ❖ At the end of three months the participants would learn to stitch**
 - A face mask,**
 - A princess cut saree blouse**
 - A three-piece princess cut saree blouse,**
 - A salwar kameez**
 - A baby frock**
- ❖ Classes had to be suspended between May to July 2021 due to lockdown restrictions.**
- ❖ Two batches of training were conducted and a total of 28 beneficiaries received training till March 2022**



***Managing Trustee L K Jha Foundation,
Dipika Maharaj Singh and Program
Director, Madhuri Abhyankar
inaugurating project ‘KALPANA’ Vocational
Training Centre, Chikhali***

Feedback regarding the ‘KALPANA project’

The initiative has received a very positive response from all stakeholders.

Trainer’s response

The trainer was happy that she had an opportunity to share her skills and help the women of her village learn something new. She stated that the women were thankful about receiving such excellent training, totally free of cost in their village.

Participants’ response

The participants gave a very enthusiastic response to the training.

“I didn’t even know what a sewing machine looks like and now I can sew my very own garments!”

Community’s response

The husbands and families were supportive of the initiative. The husbands appreciated the contribution their wives could make to the family income; either by saving on clothes and even understanding the true value of ready-made clothes.

Sarpanch’s response

The Sarpanch was happy that the initiative was supporting her aim of empowering women to respond not only to a crisis situation but also to be independent and learn to self-sustain.

The LK Jha Foundation team’s reflections

The team noted an increase in the women’s self-confidence. The women felt visible and valued as such initiative was taken for their upliftment in a remote place like Chikhali. They were elated to be viewed as an asset!

The L.K Jha Foundation team recognises immense potential in Chikhali and identifies ample scopes of rural sustainable development.



(L-R) Madhuri Abhyankar, 'KALPANA' Trainer Madhavi Zende and Dipika Maharaj Singh



A blouse made by student of 'KALPANA'



The sewing machines used for the training



Students at work



Felicitation of students after successful completion of the 3 months of basic tailoring course



The proud students of project 'KALPANA' with their certificates of participation



On the occasion of International Women's day, Dipika Maharaj Singh inaugurated the new centre for the 'KALPANA' Project



Dipika Maharaj Singh addressed the attendees on the occasion



Women power!



‘SRI RAMAKRISHNA’ BOREWELL PROJECT

Prior to the launch of the LK Jha Foundation initiative, there was one borewell in Chikhali village that was being used for farming purposes. However, there was no secure and safe source of drinking water for the residents of Chikhali.

Responding to the appeal the L.K.Jha Foundation initiated the launching of a borewell. A possible site was identified after a government survey.

On the 4th of March, on the auspicious occasions of Shivratri and Ramkrishna Paramhans’s birthdate, abundant water was located at 200 feet and of 4-5 inches diameter close to the Shiva temple which is at the heart of the village.

The villagers were in ecstasy at this ‘miracle’. The borewell will be able to fulfil the water requirements of at least half the village.

This initiative was possible due to the generous contribution by the Late Shri Rahul Bajaj through the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation.



The site for the borewell



Water in the desert!

Dipika Maharaj Singh and Manali Zende Patil at the borewell site celebrating the 'Fountain of life' in the heart of the desert!



An oasis in the desert!

RAMESHWAR HIGH SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT, CHIKHALI

- ❖ **In 2019, The Foundation supported the Rameshwar Vidyalaya High School in response to village Chikhali's need for a reliable and steady electricity supply, by installing Solar Panels. This system caters to the needs of the students attending the high school by fully powering the school fans, tube lights and computers.**
- ❖ **This has been a great boon for the education of the children and youth of the village. Due to the solar electric supply it has become an active night study centre as the children do not have access to electricity at home.**
- ❖ **In September of 2021, the L.K. Jha Foundation team visited the High School to review the support given to the village. The team held a meeting with the Principal and school senior staff members to understand further needs of the students.**
- ❖ **The Foundation's team observed that the flooring of the school was in very poor condition, broken with holes, dust and large pits. Also the benches and tables for the students were broken and rusted. As a result the students had to sit on the floor in the dust to pursue their studies.**
- ❖ **There was no sanitation block for the nearly 300 students! This was a great lack especially for the girl students and teachers. It also posed a health hazard.**
- ❖ **The immediate needs identified were:**
 - 1. A sanitation block for the students**
 - 2. Tiling of the school floor and corridors**
 - 3. 60 benches and tables for the students to seat 120 students**

- ❖ **Quotations were approved and funding was sought to fulfil these vital needs.**
- ❖ **Once our project proposals were approved, we identified recommended reputed vendors and contractors.**
- ❖ **The execution of projects began in March 2022 after the funds were made available.**
- ❖ **The Foundation is confident that the students attending the next academic year in June 2022 will greatly benefit from the initiatives undertaken by the Foundation.**
 - **The new classroom flooring and corridors will have a long and durable lifespan as the material used will be of superior Tandur and granite stones.**
 - **The tables and benches are designed to introduce colour, comfort and durability for the students to enhance their learning during long and hot classroom hours.**
 - **Work has commenced on the much-needed sanitation block which is completely essential for the health and hygiene of all the beneficiaries.**

“All the Students, Teachers and Parents were really very happy when the flooring and toilet block work was in process. We had never imagined or expected that the school would have a new flooring or a toilet block.

Our School will always be indebted for the contribution made by the LK Jha Foundation and we hope for your future cooperation and contribution”!

(School Principal and Trustees of Rameshwar Vidyalay serving children residing in the heart of rural India)



The L.K. Jha Foundation team with the Sarpanch and the staff of the Shri Rameshwar Vidyalaya, Chikhali



Students sitting on the floor to attend classes due to the lack of benches and tables in classrooms



The 10 computers available are functioning because of the solar panels installed by the L K Jha Foundation in 2019



Installing stone flooring in the school corridor at Rameshwar Vidyalay



Sanitation block for students under construction at the Rameshwar Vidyalay

INITIATIVES TOWARDS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO UNDER-SERVED STUDENTS

‘VIDYA’ - NON-FORMAL EDUCATION SET-UP IN WEST BENGAL

- ❖ **In March 2021, the LK Jha Foundation was approached by Shri Kunja - The Rural Centre for Eco-Heritage and Green Consciousness based in village Bamunara in Burdwan District of West Bengal.**
- ❖ **The organisation is proposing to run a non-formal education centre for the children of the Adivasi community residing there. Shri Kunja made a request to the L.K. Jha Foundation to support them by building a structure for the centre for the children which will house a library and tuition centre.**
- ❖ **The LK Jha Foundation submitted a proposal to Tata BlueScope Steel Private Limited under their CSR Programme. They sanctioned this worthwhile project and undertook to construct the pre-fabricated structure. However, they stipulated that the plinth construction would not be supported by them. Therefore the L.K. Jha Foundation supported the cost of construction of the plinth for this structure which was a specialised construction, based on all technical details required by their company.**
- ❖ **The project design was finalised towards the end of December 2021. And work began on the project in February 2022.**
- ❖ **Currently the plinth work is complete and the prefabricated structure has been installed. Work on the centre is expected to be completed in by June 2022 after electrification is installed.**



The future beneficiaries of the Vidya Niketan study centre, Bamunara



Adivasi children learning through non-formal education methods at Shri Kunja.

The plinth under construction at the Vidya Niketan study centre





The setting up of the pre-fabricated structure at the Vidya Niketan study centre, Bamunara



Inside of the pre-fabricated centre

The centre near completion



PROJECT 'RUPENDRA' - EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME, ALANDI

- ❖ **The L.K. Jha Foundation has been supporting the Sant Gadge Maharaj School in Koregaon Park, Pune. The Janata Janardan Trust which runs the school provides free education to underprivileged children.**
- ❖ **The trust was approached by three Dharamshalas (shelter homes) in Alandi for educational support for the children residing in these centres. Alandi is a pilgrim town about 20 kms from Pune. The Dharamshalas are mainly dependent on the donations from the pilgrim population for their survival and were severely affected with food scarcity and interrupted education during the pandemic.**
- ❖ **Most of those who reside at the centres are children of farmers, some of who belong to single parent families and many are orphans.**
- ❖ **Sant Gadge Maharaj School admitted 125 of these children and waived off their tuition fees but was unable to support the other education material and uniforms for the children.**
- ❖ **The trust approached the L.K. Jha Foundation to provide educational support for the other areas such as textbooks, notebooks, stationery materials and uniforms.**
- ❖ **With support from sponsors, the RUPENDRA project was launched on the 1st of September 2021 after some delay as schools were temporarily closed due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.**
- ❖ **55 students, 30 boys and 25 girls, were present from the total student body being mindful of the COVID-19 restrictions. With due precautions, textbooks, notebooks, stationery sets and two sets of uniforms were handed over to the children. The rest of the students received their sets from the L.K.Jha Foundation at the shelters.**

Feedback from beneficiaries

“My grandfather wants to see me highly educated but was not able to afford the Rs. 10,000/- the private high school was charging. He thought he could not educate me. Today, I am receiving such good education in Pune because of L.K. Jha Foundation’s support. Thank you for helping me fulfil my grandfather’s dream!”

“My father works really hard for our family and goes through a lot of struggle to support our family. I want to get good education so I can support my family and reduce my father’s hardships. The support I have received from L.K. Jha Foundation today has really helped me in my journey.”



Children from the shelters sitting on the premises of Sant Gadge Maharaj School on the day of the Project RUPENDRA launch.



A student receiving his textbooks and notebooks while receiving encouraging words from Project Director Madhuri Abhyankar



Dipika Maharaj Singh distributing textbooks to the girls of 8th standard



A family deprived student expressing her gratitude for the support given by L.K. Jha Foundation for her education. She spoke about her goals and dreams after she has completed her education.



Empowered students

L.K. JHA FOUNDATION'S FUTURE INITIATIVES

While the L.K. Jha Foundation has been able to address some of the expressed needs of the beneficiaries, there are others that need to be addressed in the future.

In Chikhali, a detailed Needs Assessment session in September 2021 by the Foundation and subsequent visits and discussions with the village authorities including the Sarpanch, Gram Sevaks and many Chikhali residents, who highlighted the following needs-

❖ WATER SOLUTION FOR STORAGE

- The borewell installation by the Foundation in February 2022, has tapped into abundant water source.
- However, there is now an immediate need for a concrete water tank with the capacity of 25,000 litres for storage of water drawn from the borewell.
- This will be able to meet the needs of the people for a convenient, steady and safe source of water for human consumption.
- The tank will also provide a relief to all the women who until now had to trek many kilometres to collect water especially challenging in the summer heat.

❖ RAIN WATER HARVESTING

Rain water harvesting is very important in a drought prone region such as Chikhali. It can be undertaken at the individual as well as the village level to help replenish the precious ground water reserves.

❖ **LIBRARY AND COMPUTER CENTRE**

The residents requested the setting up of a centre for students at various stages of education to fulfil the following requirements-

- a. Academic and recreational books for the youth and adults.
- b. Study space and library for the students of competitive exams such as UPSC and MPSC.
- c. Computers for the students to browse for information and application for higher studies, courses and jobs.
 - At present the students in high schools and junior college do not have access to any computers and often have to go to Ahmednagar when they have to search for information or apply to colleges or jobs.
 - Along with the computers there will be a need for a reliable wireless internet connection.
- d. Toys for the engagement of the children of the students of the 'KALPANA's' project while they attended the training course.

❖ **COMPUTER LITERACY CENTRE**

Many of the residents of Chikhali are not computer literate but are well aware that computer literacy is the need of the hour. They have responded with enthusiasm to the idea of starting computer classes. A Needs Assessment form was given to the Sarpanch by the Foundation's Coordinator to survey the response to a computer literacy programme.

❖ **SOLAR PANEL TO POWER THE LIBRARY AND COMPUTER CENTRE**

Chikhali has irregular supply of electricity. There needs to be a steady and reliable supply of electricity to run the library, study centre and the computers and internet.

Solar panels installed at the centre will be able to take care of the electricity needs. In the past the solar panels installed in the Rameshwar Vidyalay are able to support the running of computers, fans and lights in the schools greatly benefitting the learning of the students.

❖ **MARKETING AND DAIRY ENTERPRISE**

Chikhali has roughly 27-28 self-help groups with 10-15 women each in the village that are dedicated to creating different products like spices and some handicrafts. However, due to a lack of direction and marketing guidance, they are not able to convert this into a financially viable enterprise.

Participants pointed out nearly 80% of the women present had milch animals in their houses. Their suggestion was creating products with the existing resources instead of investing in new machinery.



In every home a COW not a CAR



***Produce from the fields of village
Chikhali***

❖ **TREE PLANTATION**

Tree plantation is key to cleaner air, providing shade, preserve biodiversity, conserve water, preserve soil and help with the climate control in the long run. The Foundation is keen that tree plantation should be undertaken at the village level in Chikhali in large scale in order to reap the many benefits for all generations.

❖ **STREET LIGHTING**

At present due to the lack of a reliable source of electricity, there are no street lights in the village posing a risk for those who need to travel at night. The Foundation would like to rectify the situation by exploring viable options for the same.

❖ **RUPENDRA PROJECT- DHARAMSHALA SUPPORT**

- We find that the students at the Dharamshalas in Alandi are sitting on the floors for their studies (reading and writing). We would like to provide basic furniture of tables and chairs to help them learn in comfort.
- We would also like to fulfil their need for learning via digital medium. During lockdown the children had a very hard time trying to access lessons from a single mobile phone. Therefore, we seek to provide laptops/ desktop computers to fulfil this great need.
- We are also considering provision of a library consisting of textbooks and books on general knowledge and development for the children at the senior school level.

We are seeking support from our sponsors and CSR initiatives to implement the above worthy goals.



Team of volunteers, L.K. Jha Foundation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We express our sincere thanks to all who have supported our initiatives :

OUR CSR PARTNERS & TRUST

- ❖ Tata BlueScope Steel Private Limited**
- ❖ Jammalal Bajaj Foundation**

OUR COLLABORATING PARTNERS

- ❖ The local governing body and residents of Chikhali village**
- ❖ Janata Janardan Trust, Pune**
- ❖ Shri Kunja - The Rural Centre for Eco-Heritage and Green Consciousness, Bamunara, West Bengal**

Thanks are due to all those who have so generously encouraged and guided us in our efforts to serve the vulnerable in our society.

We specially thank:

Our CSR partners, Individual Donors and Sponsors with whose support the Foundation was able to accomplish important social objectives.

Our Honorable Trustees for their guidance and support.

Auditors Tejas A Joshi, Tejas A Joshi and Company.

Accounts Manager Mr Purushottam Parite.

Gram Panchayat, Chikhali Village.

All those who have **contributed their expertise** and their **voluntary services** for the Foundation activities.

Our team of social workers and administrative team for their invaluable contribution.

Special thanks to:

Late Mr Rahul Bajaj

Mr Riten Choudhary

Ms Nayana Rokade

Dr Shankar Acharya

Ms Paolomi Mukherji

Uruswati Trust and Mrs Komal Anand

Ms Devika Khanna

Ms Saudamini Rao

Mr Krishan Khanna

Ms Mrunal Mehra

Mr Ranjit Makkuni

Mr Souvik Ray

Mr Shyamal and Mr Rajan Hotwani

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Ms Manali Zende Patil

Mr Kieron J Glover

Mr Krishan N Glover

Ms Shrishti Maharaj Singh

Ms Madhuri Abhyankar

Ms Vinita Datye

Ms Rama Panchanadikar

Mr Sanjay Acharya for his research and contribution to the website

Mr Aditya Maharaj Singh for providing us the office space for the L. K. Jha Foundation activities and Ms Sharika Glover and Ms Trisha Maharaj Singh for their continued support.

Our Website: <https://www.lkjhafoundation.org>

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The Foundation will be very thankful for support for its future initiatives. Your valued contributions may be sent to:

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Account Type: Current Account

Account No: 201002907179

IFSC Code: INDB0000002

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Trust Registration Number: 2603

Registered under section 12AA of the Income Tax Act 1961

PAN Number: AABTL7578F